



# Quality of Life For Your Business

## Housing

Grand Rapids offers a well maintained stock of apartments, single family homes and home sites in compact traditional neighborhoods, suburban and large lot rural residential settings.

The City of Grand Rapids supports the expansion of housing opportunities for our local workforce. Recent examples of this commitment include the development of affordable owner occupied single family homes in the Crystal Lake Addition, the development of affordable rental



Grand Plaza Development

apartments and townhouses near the Mississippi River in the Grand Plaza Addition, and, most recently, a commitment of tax increment financing for the development of 58 new apartment units in the Lakewood Apartments development near the hospital.



Pokegama Lake Home

Itasca County is blessed with over 1,000 of Minnesota's 10,000 lakes. Within the city limits of Grand Rapids, premier lakefront living opportunities on Pokegama, Hale, Crystal,

McKinney and Horseshoe Lakes

are plentiful and still comparatively affordable. Within a short commute, the opportunities for rural and lakeshore living expand exponentially.

## Preschool - 12 Education

Residents and businesses value the excellent educational opportunities available in Grand Rapids. Public schools within the City of Grand Rapids are part of Independent School District 318 (ISD 318). The community prides itself on delivering outstanding early childhood through high school

educational programs, including an International Baccalaureate curriculum and College in the Schools (CITS), a concurrent enrollment program in conjunction with the University of Minnesota-Duluth. Approximately 60% of teachers at the Grand Rapids Senior High School hold a



Robert J. Elkington Middle School

masters degree, and approximately 80% have more than 10 years of teaching experience.

ISD 318 operates three neighborhood elementary schools (grades K-4) in Grand Rapids: Forest Lake, Murphy, and Southwest. The St. Joseph's Catholic Church operates one private elementary school (K-6) by the same name.

The Robert J. Elkington Middle School (grades 5-8) is a state of the art, well equipped, educational facility which opened in 2003. The Grand Rapids Senior High, which is co-located with the Myles Reif Performing Arts Center, was expanded and fully remodeled in recent years together with the construction of a new track/athletic field.

Above and beyond the opportunity for a top quality education, Grand Rapids students enjoy many extracurricular options. Students benefit from the use of modern band, dance, and theater facilities, as well as, updated or new gymnasiums, track, football, soccer, and baseball fields near or on the High School grounds. In addition, modern tennis courts, a new swimming pool, and the City Sports Complex are located on and adjacent to the Middle School grounds.

## Post Secondary Education

Itasca Community College (ICC) is located on the eastern edge of Grand Rapids. ICC is a two-year



Itasca Community College Engineering Bldg.

public college offering a wide variety of programs and courses. The College was ranked as the 5th best two-year college in the nation in 2010 by the *Washington Monthly*. ICC has a strong reputation for its associate arts degree which allows students to complete their first two

years of a four-year degree. ICC is also

nationally recognized for their engineering program which leads into an opportunity to complete a four-year degree through the Iron Range Engineering program. ICC, also, has quality programs in nursing, natural resources, psychology, class act teacher preparation, early childhood and customized training, among others. The school has an enrollment of more than 1,300 students and is a member of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities System (MnSCU) which is comprised of 32 state universities and community and technical colleges serving the higher education needs of Minnesota.

Additionally, the University of Minnesota-Duluth Campus and the College of St. Scholastica provide classes and degree programs at ICC. Adjacent to ICC is the University of Minnesota North Central Research and Outreach Center.

[Independent School District #318](#)

[Itasca Community College](#)

[U of M North Central Research and Outreach Center](#)

## Arts and Culture

Grand Rapids has outstanding venues to offer its residents and visitors, providing a chance to see a wide variety of year-round exhibits and performances both indoors and out; including both local, as well as, nationally and internationally recognized musicians, sculptors, painters, performance artists, potters, jewelers, textile artists, photographers and more.



Myles Reif Performing Arts Center Dancer

atmosphere here. They are an integral part of the community bringing first class exhibits and performances into the city, introducing us to new and exciting experiences.

A number of privately and publicly funded organizations are important contributors to the diverse cultural



[Reif Performing Arts Center](#)

[MacRostie Art Center](#)

[Itasca County Historical Society](#)

[Forest History Center](#)

[KAXE Northern Community Radio](#)

[Grand Rapids Area Public Library](#)

[Children's Discovery Museum](#)

[Grand Rapids Farmers Market](#)

## Health Care

Grand Rapids residents enjoy access to modern, multi-specialty health care facilities. The Grand Itasca Hospital and Clinic opened its new \$65 million facility in late 2005. The new medical facility is located on 76 acres in the SW quadrant of the city, adjacent to the Mississippi River and numerous multi-purpose trails. The facility is home to a multi-specialty clinic of nearly 50 physicians and a 64-bed hospital. Grand Rapids is also home to numerous other quality, privately



Grand Itasca Clinic and Hospital

owned surgical centers, specialty clinics, and medical offices.

## Recreation

The Grand Rapids area offers a wide variety of indoor and outdoor recreational opportunities for all seasons. The City of Grand Rapids has over 200 acres of parks and open space lands, 54 miles of trails, Pokegama Golf Course (one of the finest municipal golf courses in Minnesota), and numerous access points to multiple lakes and rivers.

Additionally, Grand Rapids is the trail head to the Taconite Snowmobile Trail and the Mesabi Bike Trail, as well as the gateway to over a million acres of public hunting lands, including the Chippewa National Forest, and 1,000 quality fishing lakes, most of which are accessible within 1/2 hour of town.



[Itasca County YMCA](#)

[Mesabi Trail](#)

[Grand Rapids Park & Rec. Department](#)

[Pokegama Golf Course](#)

[Get Fit Itasca](#)

[MN Department of Natural Resources](#)

[Area Convention and Visitors Bureau](#)

## Shopping

Grand Rapids' blend of popular national retail chains and locally grown niche businesses make it a regional destination for shopping. According to the *2007 U of M Extension Grand Rapids Retail Trade Analysis*, per capita gross retail sales in Grand Rapids equaled \$47,500. In 2008, general merchandise pull factors indicated a customer population of over 48,000. This large market area population has attracted a robust shopping and dining atmosphere, atypical of a community with a population of just over 10,000.